

THE NEW YORK TIMES, SUNDAY, JUNE 20, 1982

would be a recovery in June; I feel certain from the signs that now exist that this will be the case."

Last week, those signs ranged from a report that personal income rose by seven-tenths of 1 percent and consumer spending by 1.3 percent in May to a 22.3 percent boost in housing starts. On the other hand, factory capacity was reported to have run at its lowest rate in seven years last month, and the prime rate is on the way back up.

Treasury Secretary Donald T. Regan blamed the usual suspect for the economy's uncertainty last week, saying that if high interest rates cut off recovery from the recession, then the Administration might try to put the central bank on a tighter leash. The effect of monetary tinkering on the fiscal balance sheet, however, remains unclear: \$125 billion in red ink now seems far more probable than \$103.9 billion for 1983; 1982's \$37.5 billion estimate is now calculated at more than \$105 billion.

## Too Clever By Half

Edwin P. Wilson last week was lured into a trap that a Robert Ludlum—or an Edwin P. Wilson—could have devised.

Mr. Wilson, a former Central Intelligence Agency operative indicted in 1980 on charges of aiding Libya, was apparently tricked into leaving his sanctuary in Tripoli for a new life of exile in the Caribbean. Using a false Irish passport, he made his way across Europe and thence to the Dominican Republic. In Santo Domingo, where he had been led to believe he would find a safe change of scenery, authorities instead forced him to board a nonstop flight for New York. At Kennedy Airport, he was arrested



Mark Godfrey  
Edwin P. Wilson

by United States marshals. A Federal magistrate subsequently ordered him held in lieu of \$20 million bail, and at an arraignment on Friday a U.S. District Judge entered a not guilty plea on his behalf.

Mr. Wilson was a prize catch. Investigators say that in 1976, the year he turned in his Government cloak, he and Frank E. Terpil, another former intelligence agent who is still a fugitive, agreed to sell Libya their deadly expertise and then arranged for illegal shipments of explosives and helped train Libyan terrorists. Among the unanswered questions is whether their deal with Tripoli had received the tacit approval of senior C.I.A. officials.

Catching Mr. Wilson is one thing; convicting him or eliciting useful information from him may be another. Mr. Wilson's lawyer, John A. Keats, indicated that much will be made of the fact that the Dominican authorities all but gift-wrapped Mr. Wilson without the bother of extradition proceedings. "We're at the start of great

adventure, if it goes to trial," Mr. Keats said. Further, some officials are afraid that intelligence agencies, concerned about a full-blown inquiry compromising their operations might make prosecution difficult by refusing to cooperate. It was also thought possible that Mr. Wilson might threaten to reveal secret information unless the Government drops its case or guarantees leniency.

## A Step Out Of Detention

In a decision that could significantly affect the Administration's immigration policy, a Federal judge ruled last week that procedures under which Haitian refugees have been detained violated the law. The judge, Eugene Spellman of Federal District Court in Miami, stopped short of declaring the detention itself illegal and discriminatory, but ordered a meeting for Wednesday, presumably to determine release procedures.

Until May 1981, Haitians illegally entering the United States were screened for medical problems into the custody of sponsors in the community. Then, the Administration, saying the United States was "losing control of its borders," began placing some Haitians in detention camps and stopping others at sea; 2,000 are now being held at camps in five states and Puerto Rico.

Judge Spellman ruled that "when the Government changed its long-standing policy of freely paroling Haitians to a policy of incarcerating them it did so in a procedurally improper way" because it did not give interested parties notice of its anticipated action. Two days before the ruling, the Administration announced it would parole certain Haitians, provided they were represented by indi-